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South Korea Proposes New Meeting With North

By Peter Maass
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SEOUL, Aug. 1—South Korea, pursuing a new round of diplomatic maneuvering with North Korea, proposed today that 15 lawmakers from each side meet next week at a border truce village for talks that would include Pyongyang's planned boycott of the Seoul Olympics.

North Korea, rebuffed in its bid to cohost the Games, has said it will stay away from the Olympics, which open Sept. 17. But in a letter to the Seoul government last week, the communist North called for new

talks on its involvement in the Games.

North Korean participation would erase what Seoul considers to be the major security threat to the Games and could help lead to a rapprochement between Seoul and Pyongyang, technically still at war since the Korean War ended in an uneasy truce in 1953.

The talks proposed today—a prelude to a meeting of all members of the two nations' parliaments—would be the first direct North-South contacts since the last round was ended by Pyongyang in 1986. But western diplomats and po-

litical experts in Seoul said they are pessimistic the talks will take place and believe the chances for success are remote even if they are held.

South Korean President Roh Tae Woo announced last month a major shift toward conciliation with North Korea. But there is little evidence of a similar change in Pyongyang, the diplomats and experts said.

Furthermore, experts said, the North, while opening the door to more discussions on the Games, also restated its cohosting demand, which is unacceptable to Seoul and the International Olympic Committee.

Following Roh's address July 7 outlining Seoul's new policy, the South Korean National Assembly speaker, Kim Chae Sun, in a letter to the North called for exchanges between lawmakers on either side of the Demilitarized Zone.

North Korea responded, saying in last week's letter that all lawmakers from both sides should meet.

Kim sent back a letter today saying a preparatory meeting should be held, with 15 lawmakers from each side getting together at the border truce village of Panmunjom next week on a day chosen by North Korea.